

New Mexico Science Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards

Strands and Benchmarks

Kindergarten – 4th Grade

Strand II: Content of Science

Standard II (Life Science): Understand the properties, structures, and processes of living things and the interdependence of living things and their environment.

K-4 Benchmark I: Know that living things have diverse forms, structures, functions, and habits.

- K-
 - 1. Identify major structures of common living organisms.
 - 2. Observe that differences exist among individual living organisms of the same kind.
- 1st-
 - 1. Know that living organisms have needs.
 - 2. Know that living organisms inhabit various environments and have various external features to help them satisfy their needs.
 - 3. Describe the differences and similarities among living organisms.
 - 4. Observe that living organisms have predictable but varied life cycles.
- 2nd-
 - 1. Observe that diversity exists among individuals within a population.
- 3rd-
 - 1. Know that an adaptation in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism's chance for survival.
 - 2. Observe that plants and animals have structures that serve different functions.
 - 3. Classify common animals according to their observable characteristics.
- 4th-
 - 1. Explain that different living organisms have distinctive structures and body systems that serve specific functions.
 - 2. Know that humans and other living things have senses to help them detect stimuli, and that sensations and stimuli influence the behavior of organisms.

K-4 Benchmark II: Know that living things have similarities and differences and that living things change over time.

- K-
 - 1. Observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of living organisms.
- 1st-
 - 2. Recognize the differences between mature and immature plants and animals.
- 2nd-
 - 1. Explain that the stages of the life cycle are different for different animals.
 - 3. Observe how the environment influences some characteristics of some living things.
- 4th-
 - 1. Know that in any particular environment some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and others cannot survive at all.
 - 3. Describe how some living organisms have developed characteristics from generation to generation to improve chances of survival